

Anti-Asian sentiment on the rise

By Felix Oliveros
STAFF WRITER

Some San Jose State students and professors say that since the World Health Organization announced Wuhan, China as the origin of the coronavirus outbreak, the rise of xenophobia led to a spike in hate crimes against Asian populations.

Xenophobia is defined as the “fear and hatred of strangers, foreigners or anything that is strange or foreign,” according to Merriam-Webster.

“Unfortunately, the average person can’t tell the difference between the plethora of [Asian] ethnicities and cultures,” sociology junior Tiffany Yep said over the SAMMY app. “To many people, if you look Asian, then you are Chinese. This is not only a Chinese problem, but a problem for most Asians.”

Music freshman Xingxiang Huang said the prevalence of xenophobia puts the safety of Asians at risk, especially around his current residence in San Francisco.

“I have been seeing news related to this [violence] and it really intimidates me,” Huang said over Zoom. “I don’t even feel like living in this diverse city prevents it from happening.”

The Asian Pacific Policy and Planning Council, a coalition of community-based organizations that advocate for the Asian and Pacific Islander American community’s

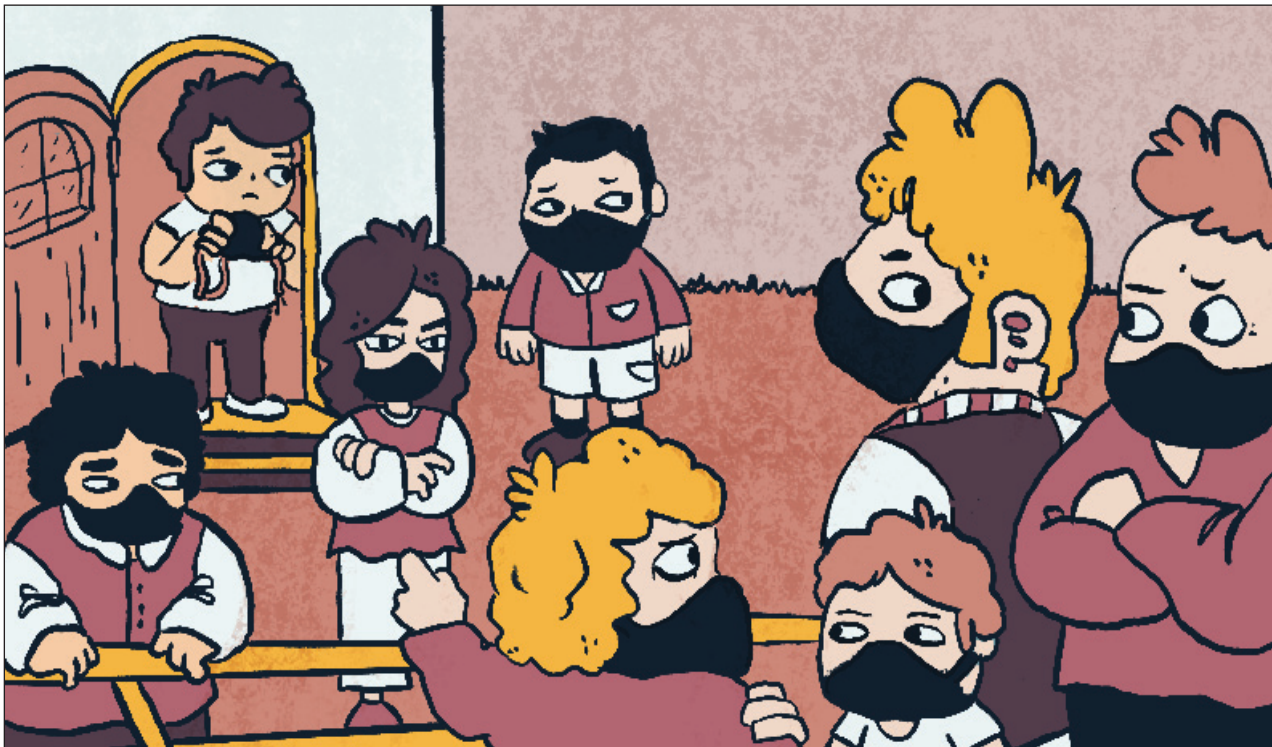


ILLUSTRATION BY NICK YBARRA

rights and needs in the Los Angeles area, tracked and documented violence against Asian people in California in a report on its website.

According to the report, 832 incidents of discrimination and harassment against Asian Americans were reported in 34 counties in California within a 13-week period.

“I had students whose parents were really strict about not letting them [outside],” Joanne Rondilla, an Asian American studies professor, said over Zoom. “And this is not Asian parents being overly strict, this is parents being concerned that something awful is going to happen to their kids.”

Yep said as someone who

“

When Chinese people experience racism out in public it’d be best if [other people] could step up and go out of their way to help us out by stopping it.

Xingxiang Huang
music freshman

is Chinese American, she felt discriminated against days before California put out a shelter-in-place order on March 19.

“I went to Trader Joe’s and people seemed to be staring at me and avoiding me. [I was] one of the only Asians in the store that I saw,” she said. “It’s not much, but it made me feel out of place.”

Rondilla said, Asian Americans are wrongfully discriminated against because of COVID-19, but xenophobia has been around even before the pandemic.

“People need someone to blame,” Rondilla said. “I had a student who contacted me recently who said that his grandmother was attacked . . . there’s no

limit to the violence that is happening.”

She also said she believes people inciting anti-Asian violence are validated by President Donald Trump, who labeled the coronavirus as the “Chinese virus” in March.

“Instead of properly managing [COVID-19] because of the death toll, [Trump] resorts to xenophobic racism because that appeals to people’s emotions,” Rondilla said.

The Asian Pacific Policy and Planning Council report identified 81 physical assault incidents against Asian Americans in California between March and June.

Rondilla said Anti-Asian violence and discrimination has a long history in America

and cites the Chinese Exclusion Act in 1882, which suspended Chinese immigration to the U.S. for 10 years, as an example of xenophobia toward Asians. It was the first time U.S. citizens saw a racial or ethnic group mentioned explicitly in law.

She also said discrimination is normalized against Asians in the U.S. through stereotypes such as the model minority myth and appropriation of Asian cultures.

The model minority myth suggests that Asians are not as underprivileged as other minorities because of their economic success, according to a 2016 article published in Ethnicity and Disease, a peer-reviewed international medical journal about the connection between ethnicity and health.

The article states that the myth is harmful because it infers that Asians and Pacific Islanders don’t need the same resources or attention as other minorities.

To freshman Huang, people need to learn the differences between different Asian cultures and take action when Asian people encounter racism or harassment.

“When Chinese people experience racism out in public it’d be best if [other people] could step up and go out of their way to help us out by stopping it,” Huang said.

Follow Felix on Twitter
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Algae research money blooms

By Laura Fields &
Shiri Marwaha
STAFF WRITERS

The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) awarded San Jose State \$1 million to research environmental changes because of algal blooms, according to a Sept. 17 EPA news release.

“We are excited to participate in this new research to measure the connections between agricultural runoff and harmful algal blooms, and to identify sustainable agricultural practices that will lead to better ocean conditions,” Michael Kaufman, SJSU College of Science dean, said in the news release.

Pallab Sarkar, an associate environmental studies research professor at the University of California, Santa Cruz, said over the phone that harmful algal blooms are accumulations of algae that produce toxins that harm people, animals and aquatic ecosystems.

Sarkar said the cause of growing algal blooms is when excess chemicals such as phosphorus and nitrogen, used for industrial and agricultural purposes, are discharged into the soil.

He said this nutrient enrichment phenomenon in groundwater and freshwater bodies combined with rising temperatures of climate change support the dense growth of algal blooms.

Kaufman said SJSU’s marine science research team will investigate whether agricultural waste products can get treated

on-site before they run off into the ocean and cause algal blooms. SJSU awarded the grant to the Moss Landing Marine Laboratories, a multi-campus marine science research consortium of the California State University System in Northern and Central California that SJSU oversees and primarily funds.

“

[Algal] tends to release toxins that can cause quite a bit of irritation and inflammation in addition to skin rashes, eye irritation, allergic reactions [and] burning sensation in your eyes. It tends to be kind of pretty irritating to anything it comes in contact with.

Dr. Nandeesh Veerappa
family medicine practitioner

The news release stated the EPA awarded a total of seven U.S. institutions with an overall grant of about \$6.4 million, the largest grant to prevent harmful algal blooms in U.S. history.

Katherine Cushing, an SJSU environmental studies professor and director of global studies, said over the phone that algal bloom is a common occurrence around the world.

“It’s kind of a perennial problem in some of the lakes, it comes and goes,” she said.

Cushing said there was an algal bloom in Cunningham Lake in East San Jose in 2019.

“Residents have said it’s a persistent problem that comes



PHOTO COURTESY OF MOSS LANDING MARINE LABS

Bioreactors near Castroville, California filter agricultural runoff that could produce harmful algal blooms.

to anything it comes in contact with.”

He said recreational water activities, including boating and fishing, bring people closer to the algae and lead to accidentally ingesting toxic water. He added that park authorities need to proactively test the water, not just when things go wrong.

“The EPA put out a call on how to reduce harmful algal blooms, that’s what we responded to,” said Ross Clark, director of Central Coast Wetlands Group at Moss Landing Marine Laboratories and one of the grant application authors.

Clark said the news of the grant is “exciting” because the \$1 million would be used for all research to be conducted in-person at the marine labs.

Marine science graduate student Fuller Gerbl will be one of the SJSU students whose work will be funded by the algal bloom grant.

“[Moss Landing Marine Laboratories] got involved because of all the nutrient processing already happening in the lab,” he said.

The team will be using

biochar, a type of charcoal, to filter water runoff from farms in the Salinas and San Joaquin Valleys before it reaches the Monterey Bay Marine Reserve, as Monterey Bay is a protected marine area.

They plan to analyze the cost effectiveness of using locally sourced biochar made from eucalyptus, which is collected by tree removal projects.

A goal for the researchers later down the line would be to recycle the water for other uses.

“As groundwater is intruded by salt and nutrients, water will become more of an important resource,” Gerbl said.

He added that he’s attending the marine science master’s program almost entirely online because of the pandemic, and he only went to the Moss Landing Marine Laboratories twice to work with one other student on collecting data.

“The only downside [to being in the program] is not being in person with all the great minds over there,” Gerbl said.

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Design student makes industry waves

By Laura Fields
STAFF WRITER

San Jose State design studies senior Vicky Vo has leaped over many hurdles to establish herself as a force to be reckoned with in the male-dominated tech industry.

She hosted a two-part event on Sept. 23 and Oct. 2 with SJSU's Humanities and Arts Student Success Center about landing an internship for user experience and design, also known as UX.

Don Norman, Apple's first UX architect, coined the term in 1995. User experience is "the person's experience with a system, including industrial design, graphics, the interface, the physical interaction and the manual," Norman said in a February article on thenextweb.com.

Vo said a friend recently nominated her for the Forbes 30 Under 30 2021 list and that she has gained traction in the UX design industry through contests and internships.

"If you're not in the tech industry, you might not know that getting an internship [in the field] is super hard," she said over Zoom.

Vo said tech companies typically have a four-to-seven-step interview process with coding and design challenges that applicants must excel in to be considered for different positions.

She worked with academic adviser Sandy Ho after transferring to SJSU in Fall 2019, when Vo shared that she has participated in many international UX design contests like software company SAP's "Design-A-Thon" competition, which she won in 2019.

She told Ho she hosted events about landing UX design internships, increased accessibility for women in the tech industry and created

beginner workshops for people interested in the field.

Ho and Vo then began collaborating on the event for the Humanities and Arts Student Success Center in an effort to share some of Vo's knowledge about UX with others.

"I knew it was an up-and-coming field and many students are interested, but you don't hear a lot of students already engaged with that field," Ho said. "For me, [Vo's involvement in UX] is absolutely phenomenal."

Vo's interest in UX design initially sparked when she was deciding whether to continue studying psychology or switch to graphic design.

"That's when I discovered that if I become a UX designer, I can do both," she said.

Vo said she is drawn to the marriage of psychology in human-computer interactions as well as pursuing her passion for art through app and web design. Vo started researching online how to teach herself the basics of UX design by attending Eventbrite webinars hosted by professionals.

"The only way students get into UX is through [the] self-taught [method]," she said.

Vo participated in contests to compare her self-taught design skills with peers and to track her progress in the industry.

"It started with one [contest] and I thought, 'Oh my god, this is so fun,' so I kept doing it," she said.

Vo's hard work and research into the industry paid off as she received around 10 international awards.

She attributes her success to posting on the job recruiting website, LinkedIn and cold emailing companies that piqued her interests.

"I'm living proof that cold emails work," she said. "When I was 19, I sent out 30 cold emails to companies in the Bay Area and guess what? Five of them got



PHOTO COURTESY OF VICKY VO

Graphic design senior Vicky Vo creates a gaming app using a software called Figma in her home office.

“

She has a drive that I have never seen before – I see her pushing and doing so much work as a superwoman. I think she's on some kind of design steroid that we all wish we could get.

Julia Fernandez
co-founder, Students of UXD

back to me and one of them took me as an intern.”

Vo's friends said the key to her prosperity is her ability to notice aspects of life that other people overlook, by stepping into the user's shoes to foresee what problems may arise.

Vo, along with her friend Julia Fernandez, co-founded

Students of UXD, an organization geared toward helping students interested in UX learn and network with other students.

Fernandez, an Academy of Arts University graphic design senior, has known Vo for five months after meeting through LinkedIn.

"She has a drive that I have never seen before – I see her pushing and doing so much work as a superwoman," Fernandez said. "I think she's on some kind of design steroid that we all wish we could get."

Vo, who is originally from Vietnam, came from a low-income family with less access to opportunities, making her nervous about how people would perceive her as an international student.

"My parents are not wealthy at all and they really did their best to send me over here to study so that I can get more opportunities," Vo said.

She said every step toward her goals are for her parents, who

prioritized her access to a quality education. Vo sees every step as a building block toward her future.

Vo said she encourages her peers to start early, accept that mistakes will be made and proactively create plans for themselves.

She has revised 170 resumes and mentored dozens of students through her organization to sharpen their skills.

As the pandemic shut down many businesses, Vo lost her internship at Google after receiving an offer.

While she remains busy with current projects, Vo will be looking to apply once again when the application window opens.

She said she believes her success means it's attainable for all students.

"[I want students to] always look at things as an opportunity and then [they] can really grow from it," Vo said.

Follow Laura on Twitter
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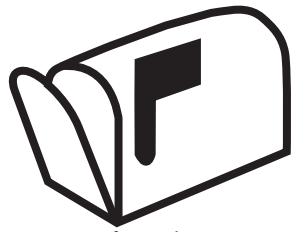
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Billionaires must share the wealth



Living in a world where billionaires exist while there are so many people struggling for basic necessities is flat out cruel. No person should hoard so much money when there are communities in need.

During the coronavirus pandemic, billionaires in the U.S. increased their net worth by about \$637 billion while unemployment rates increased, according to an Aug. 3 video by Business Insider.

Billionaires do not have the same amount of financial worry that the majority of the population has, yet they are given tax breaks even when they hurt the country by not using their money for good causes.

By hoarding their wealth, billionaires keep money from flowing into the economy.

According to a policy brief by Jan Svejnar, director of the Center on Global Economic Governance, when billionaires hold most of the wealth, it reduces a country's economic growth.

Most billionaires will never even spend most of the money they have, so keeping it is simply a matter of pride. It is truly sickening to think about how they are able to trivialize the importance of money instead of using it to



ILLUSTRATION BY HANZ PACHECO

stimulate the economy and improve life for others.

Billionaires could use their money to help out people who are less fortunate.

There are 34 million people currently living below the poverty line in the U.S., according to the U.S. Census.

Meanwhile, there were more than 2,800 billionaires reported in the world in 2019 whose wealth was worth \$9.4 trillion combined, according to CNBC.

That money alone makes up 12% of the world's broad money, funds that are easily accessible, according to the CIA world factbook.

The super wealthy do not even make up 1% of the world's 7 billion population, according to the census.

The differences in wealth are almost incomprehensible. One dollar to a regular person is equal to \$1,355 to a billionaire, according to a March 6, 2018 article by Business Insider.

While there are people living paycheck to paycheck, billionaires can spend excessive amounts of money without feeling any real drop in their quality of life. There should never be such a large wealth gap between the majority of the population

and the few who are super wealthy.

There are a few billionaires who used their money for good causes. The world's richest man and Amazon founder, Jeff Bezos, created a philanthropic fund called the Day One Fund in 2018 with his ex-wife and novelist, MacKenzie Scott, in which they donated \$2 billion to help the low-income children and homeless people.

On top of that, 210 billionaires have signed the Giving Pledge according to the Giving Pledge website.

With the Giving Pledge, many notable billionaires promise to donate half of their wealth before they die.

The agreement was created by Warren Buffet, the fourth richest person in the world, Bill Gates, the second richest person in the world and his wife Melinda.

This is the most ethical way to spend excessive wealth, by donating it so other people will benefit from it rather than billionaires selfishly hoarding it. However, the good deed could be seen as a way for billionaires to receive a deduction on their taxes, according to deductions qualifications from the Internal Revenue Service.

Billionaires are also making so much money that even if they signed the Giving Pledge, they would have to drastically increase their charitable donations.

According to Gilded Giving 2020, a report from the Institute for Policy Studies, the wealth of 62 billionaires who agreed to the Giving Pledge in 2010 increased by 95% in ten years. This makes it difficult for them to stick to their pledge of donating half their wealth.

Billionaires not only have the wealth to advance their life and the lives of others, they have political power which helps them keep their money and make more.

Billionaire brothers, Charles and the late David Koch, have donated around \$100 million since the 1970s to support conservative politics by influencing the outcome of elections and undoing limits on campaign contributions, according to an Aug. 23, 2019 New York Times article.

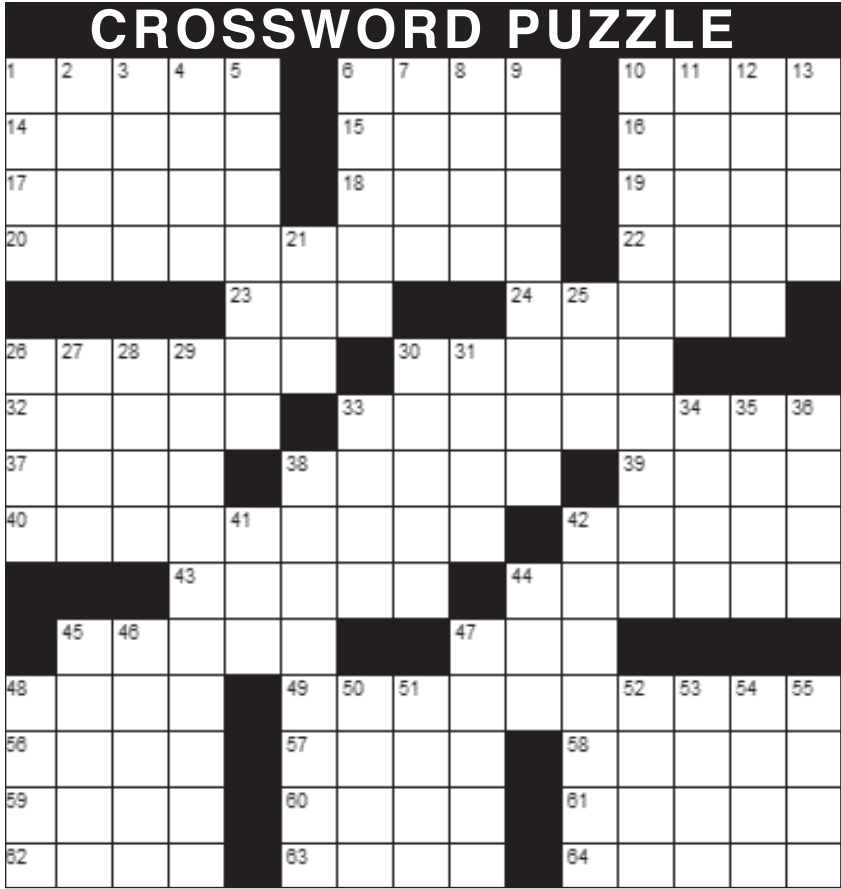
Wealthy people like them are able to create a cycle where they can donate to candidates that will keep taxes for the rich low. This allows them to keep their money and for politicians to be reelected because billionaires are funding their campaigns.

Billionaires should never be able to hold the amount of power they do and that can be fixed through taxing the rich to redistribute wealth and put it into charities and organizations that will help people around the world.

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CLASSIFIEDS

CROSSWORD PUZZLE



ACROSS

- Delete
- Use a beeper
- Bleat
- Greek letter
- Cohort
- Attraction
- Gather
- Disgorge
- Unit of land
- Spectacles
- Study hard
- Fury
- Cod-like fishes
- Became smaller
- Breakfast and supper
- Fastening
- Failure to be punctual
- Atop
- Good-looker
- Chills and fever
- Explodes
- Play the bagpipes
- Slightly intoxicated
- Internal-combustion engine
- Tattles
- Solidify

- 3 in a yard
- Irrefutable
- Hindu princess
- Forsaken
- Weaver
- Savvy about
- Type of sword
- Academy award
- Natural satellite
- Stitches
- Requires

DOWN

- Border
- Depend
- Away from the wind
- Male deer
- A newborn lamb
- Antiquated
- Austrian peaks
- Adhesive
- Visor
- Type of harmless snake
- Ill-gotten gains
- Tapestry
- Swarm
- Biblical boat
- Anagram of "Ail"

- An upright in a wall
- Hoopla
- Violent disturbance
- Footnote
- Pirate's pal
- Twin sister of Ares
- Sounds of reproof
- Auspices
- Certain
- Peddle
- Small containers
- Pen part
- Semiconducting material
- Lair
- Keno
- Slowly, in music
- Segments of DNA
- Not "To"
- No
- Sketched
- Backside
- A pale blue pigment
- Its symbol is Pb
- Makes a mistake

SUDOKU PUZZLE

Complete the grid so that every row, column and 3x3 box contains every digit from 1 to 9 inclusively.

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10/07/2020

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2	1	4	9	8	7	3	6	5
4	3	6	2	7	1	8	5	9
5	9	1	8	4	3	6	7	2
7	8	2	6	9	5	1	4	3

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